

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 16-19 are cancelled.

Claims 8-10 and 14-15 are objected to.

Claims 1-15 and 20-25 are currently pending.

II. OBJECTIONS

The claims have been amended to overcome the objection.

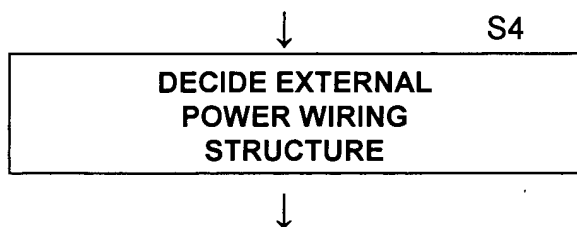
III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-7 AND 20-25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY FUJINE ET AL (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,247,162)

Claim 1

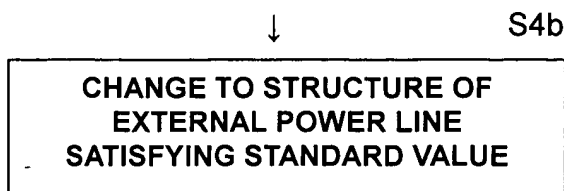
Fujine is silent about eliminating or adding of a power supply pad as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Claim 1 specifically recites eliminating or adding at least one power supply pad in accordance with the result of the determination.

In the outstanding Office Action on pg. 4, the Examiner correlates the aforementioned recitation of claim 1 of the present application with that of Fujine in FIG. 2, step (S4); FIG. 6, step (S4b); Col. 6, lines 28-52, and Col. 8, lines 22-26 and 31-32.

Step (S4) of FIG. 2 of Fujine is shown below:



Step (S4b) from FIG. 6 of Fujine is as follows:





As can be seen in the previous figures, neither Step (S4) of FIG. 2, nor Step (S4b) of FIG. 6, describe eliminating or adding at least one power supply pad as recited by claim 1. With respect to the written description of Fujine at Col. 6, lines 28-52 and Col. 8, lines 22-26 and 31-32, there is no disclosure for eliminating or adding at least one power supply pad. Instead, the cited portions of Fujine merely describe changing the structure of the external power wirings based on the incorrect portions of the external power wiring. See column 6, lines 28-30.

The Examiner asserts in the outstanding Office Action parenthetically on pg. 4 “change/modify the structure” in applying Fujine to the aforementioned recitation of claim 1. The Examiner is thus evidently construing eliminating or adding at least one power supply pad in accordance with the result of the determination of claim 1 to mean “modify or change the structure”.

Notwithstanding, this is an improper basis for rejecting claim 1 as the Examiner cannot ignore claim recitations. Fujine does not describe **eliminating or adding a power supply pad** as recited in claim 1 of the present application; but instead, describes in step S4b **changing the structure of the external power wirings** based on the incorrect portions of the external power wiring. See column 6, lines 28-30. Accordingly, the aforementioned recitation of claim 1 recites eliminating or adding a power supply pad, and does not describe a modification to structure as asserted by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiners correlation is incorrect. Therefore, because the cited reference does not describe the recitations of claim 1, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) is improper.

The above comments are specifically directed to claim 1. However, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of various other claims over the cited reference, specifically, claims 21 and 24.

Claim 11

Claim 11 recites adding a new power supply pad near a power supply pad for which current value exceeds the predetermined current capacity. In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner asserts the aforementioned recitation of claim 11 is described in Fujine in FIG. 2, step (S4); FIG. 6, step (S4b); Col. 6, lines 28-36, and Col. 8, lines 20-22 and 26-31. There is no description in the cited portions of Fujine which describes adding a new power supply pad near a power supply pad as recited in claim 11 of the present application. Additionally, the arguments

presented previously regarding Fujine per claim 1 are applicable here for similar reasons. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 11 is improper under 35 USC 102(b).

The above comments are specifically directed to claim 11. However, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of various other claims over the cited reference.

Claim 12

Fujine does not describe calculating the total net length of the wires of the nets and usable channel length of the core section by referring to circuit information and a layout parameter that are used to design the semiconductor integrated circuit, the total net length being the sum of the lengths of a plurality of first wires extending in a predetermined first direction and the lengths of a plurality of second wires extending in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, and the usable channel length being the sum of a channel length in the first direction and a channel length in the second direction as recited in claim 12.

The Examiner asserts in the outstanding Office Action that the aforementioned recitation is described at Col. 2, lines 27-45; FIG. 2, step (S1), Figure 3, Col. 5, lines 20-35, and FIGS. 9-12. However, none of these portions of Fujine disclose, inter alia, calculating the total net length of the wires of the nets. The only place where the word calculates appears in the foregoing cited portions of Fujine is at Col. 2, lines 27-45. Notwithstanding, the aforementioned description within Fujine refers to calculating a current ration, voltage and current values; NOT to calculating the total net length of wires.

In addition, there is no disclosure in the cited portions of Fujine regarding total net length as is recited in claim 12. The Examiner asserts on page 8 of the outstanding Office Action that the wires extending in horizontal and vertical directions in FIGS. 11 and 12 correlate with the recitations for total net length as in claim 12 of the present application. Notwithstanding, the recitation of claim 12 pertains to how total net length is calculated, which the cited portions of Fujine do not disclose. Therefore, the rejections of claim 12 under 35 USC 102(b) is improper.

The above comments are specifically directed to claim 12. However, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of various other claims over the cited reference, specifically, claims 22 and 25. Further, the recitation regarding calculating the total net length of the wires of Claim 20 is somewhat similar to the aforementioned recitation of claim 12. Likewise, the recitation regarding calculating the total net length of the wires of claim 23 is somewhat similar to the recitation of claim 22 regarding

calculating the total net length of the wires. Hence, the rejections of claims 20 and 23 are improper for similar reasons as discussed above for claim 12.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

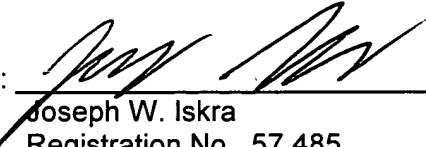
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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